Cash Register Justice
Covering the Hidden Costs of the Justice System
A Symposium & Workshop for Journalists

Draft Agenda

Speakers and times subject to change

Thursday, March 7, 2019
Center on Media, Crime & Justice at John Jay College

8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
Welcome
Stephen Handelman
Director, Center on Media, Crime & Justice
9:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
Panel 1
The Hidden Costs of US Justice

Court fees and fines have emerged as a primary driver of mass incarceration and an economic burden for thousands of justice-involved Americans. What are the consequences? Who suffers the most? An overview.

SPEAKERS
Alexes Harris, professor of sociology, University of Washington.
Joanna Weiss, co-director of Fines and Fees Justice Center
Marc Levin, vice president of criminal justice police, Texas Public Policy Foundation

Moderator:
Lisa Foster, co-Director, Fines and Fees Justice Center

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Panel 2
The Media and Cash Register Justice

Reporting on fines & fees. Case studies from journalists. A lessons-learned panel.

SPEAKERS
Melissa Sanchez, Pro Publica Illinois
Matt Shaer, New York Times
Sarah Stillman, The New Yorker

Moderator:
Maurice Possley, Journalism Coordinator, Center on Media, Crime and Justice.

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Lunch
1:45 p.m. -3:15 p.m.
Panel 3
Driven into Debt

Driver’s license suspensions. What happens after these are assessed? Who is punished the most? What is the effect on lives?

SPEAKERS:
Lisa Foster, co-director of Fines and Fees Justice Center
Ashley Gantt [INVITED], Impacted person from Rochester, NY
Tara Mikkilineni, Civil Rights Corps attorney on TN driver’s license litigation

Moderator:
Joanna Weiss, Co-director of Fines and Fees Justice Center

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Break

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Panel 4
The Incarceration Trap
Incarceration and pay-to-stay fees: Fees imposed for or when one is in custody

SPEAKERS:
Emily Gerrick, Texas Fair Defense Project
Bianca Tylek, Corrections Accountability Project
Paul Wright, Human Rights Defense Center

Moderator:
Sam Brooke, Deputy Director, Southern Poverty Law Center

Friday, March 8, 2019

8:30- a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Panel 5
Paying for Help
Diversion and Treatment Fees: payments for diversion, probation, drug testing and treatment services. Problems and solutions.

SPEAKERS:
Dami Animashaun, Civil Rights Corps (on Maricopa phony diversion program)
Nusrat Choudhury, Deputy director, ACLU Racial Justice program
Rebecca Curry, Colorado ACLU
Karin Martin [INVITED], University of Washington

Moderator:
William Maurer, Managing Attorney, Institute for Justice.

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Panel 6
Costs of the Juvenile Justice System
Juvenile Fines and Fees. What are these? What is the impact? What’s being done about them? Problems and solutions.

SPEAKERS:
Jessica Feierman, Juvenile Law Center
Shyara Hill, Impacted person in Pennsylvania
Jeff Selbin, Berkeley Policy Law Clinic
Amir Whitaker, impacted person in New Jersey

Moderator:
Maurice Possley, Center on Media, Crime & Justice

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Lunch
Alternatives and Solutions

Alternatives/Solutions: Day fines, credit system (for completing GED, for example), cost-free diversion. How can the criminal justice system be funded without fines and fees?

SPEAKERS:
Beth Colgan, UCLA Law School
Brook Hopkins, Executive director, Harvard Criminal Justice Policy Program
Anne Stuhldreher, Director of Financial Justice City and County of San Francisco
Jon Wool, Vera Institute of Justice

Moderator:
Stephen Handelman, Director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice at John Jay.

Conference Wrap - Project Reviews with Fellows

FAREWELL